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2. The Egyptian Consul General in Istanbul, commenting privately on these declarations, expressed the opinion that these were more than casual remarks and were made intentionally on account of the possible danger of closer relationship between Russia and the Arab States, resulting from the Anglo-Saxon policy in connection with the Palestine problem and the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations.
3. Hasan Saka's declarations prompted Ihsan al-Sharif, the Syrian Minister to Turkey, to say that, although he had not been previously advised of any such intended declarations, he was fully in accord with the Turkish Foreign Minister and that an understanding between Turkey and the Arab world was very necessary. He implied, however, that Turkey should show greater good will in the settlement of the question of the Sanjak of Alexandretta (the Hatay). This is a very sore point in Ankara, as Turkey claims that the political and territorial factors of the question have been already settled by the agreement signed with the French in 1938.
4. Ihsan al-Sharif went on to say that the next important problem was well on the way to being solved, namely that of property owned by nationals of the two countries in each other's territory. The Syrian Government has consented to renounce its claims regarding the restitution of the property of Armenians who had fled into Syria in 1915 and 1916. The Turkish side of the question still remains to be discussed, since Turkey insists on the restitution of the property in Syria which belongs to the heirs of Abdul Hamid.
5. Ihsan al-Sharif's declarations on Turkey's attitude in the Hatay affair have been deeply resented in Turkish official circles, and the Syrian Minister's prestige has suffered as a result. The Minister is aware of this fact, but he insists that he will continue to work towards the achievement of his main task, which is to reach a satisfactory agreement

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in the Sanjak of Alexandretta controversy.

6. The Lebanese Charge d'Affaires, Mukhtar Moyakesse, remarked that no Syrian government would be so foolhardy as to suggest to the Syrian people to definitely renounce the Sanjak of Alexandretta. He implied that in his opinion this was very regrettable, since it was in the interest of Syria that the Sanjak remain in Turkish hands. Syria was not in a position to defend the port of Alexandretta in case of emergency and should, consequently, not refuse the free port concessions offered by Turkey for use of both Syria and Iraq. He greatly feared, however, that Syria would never agree to such concessions and that her intransigent attitude might delay the establishment of a closer relationship between the Arab League and Turkey.

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